

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. -- National Stage Entry of PCT/JP99/06243

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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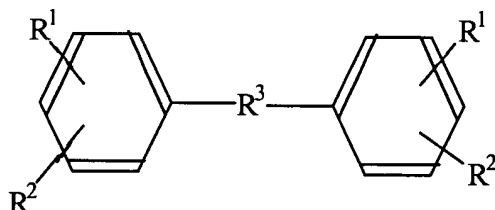
APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

4. (Amended) The fluorine-containing rubber composition for crosslinking which comprises 100 parts of the fluorine-containing elastomer of ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 2 and 0.5 to 5.0 parts by weight of a crosslinking agent represented by the formula (III):



wherein one of R¹ and R² is -NH₂ and another one is -NH₂, -OH or -SH, R³ is -SO₂-, -O-, -CO-, an alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a perfluoroalkylene group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a single bond.

8. (Amended) A process for preparing the fluorine-containing elastomer of ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 2, which comprises polymerizing a fluorine-containing monomer by using, as one of a polymerization initiator and/or monomer, a compound giving carboxyl group and/or ~~alkoxycarbonyl group~~ to a trunk chain and/or branched chain and treating a polymerization product with an acid.

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12. (Amended) The fluorine-containing elastomer of ~~Claim 10 or 11~~ Claim 10, which satisfies the following equation (1):

$$(S_{co}/S_{cf}) \times (D/D_p) \times (F/F_p) \geq 0.01 \quad (1)$$

wherein S_{co} , S_{cf} , D , D_p , F and F_p represent the following respective values.

S_{co} : Total area of absorbances at the absorptions derived from carbonyl group of associated and non-associated carboxyl groups having the absorption peaks at from 1,680 to 1,830 cm^{-1} when measurement is made with FT-IR with respect to the elastomer to be measured.

S_{cf} : Area of absorbance at absorption derived from a harmonic sound of C-F bond having an absorption peak at from 2,220 to 2,840 cm^{-1} when measurement is made with FT-IR with respect to the elastomer to be measured. In case where nitrile group is present, S_{cf} is a value obtained by subtracting an area of absorbance at absorption derived from nitrile group having an absorption peak at from 2,220 to 2,300 cm^{-1} from a total area of absorbances at whole absorption having a peak at from 2,220 to 2,840 cm^{-1} .

D : Specific gravity of the aimed elastomer at 20°C.

D_p : Specific gravity (measured value: 2.03) at 20°C of a standard perfluoro elastomer (copolymer of tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro(methyl vinyl ether) in a mole ratio of 58/42).

F : Fluorine content (% by weight) of the elastomer to be measured obtained by elemental analysis.

F_p : Fluorine content (measured value: 71.6 % by weight) of said standard perfluoro elastomer obtained by elemental analysis.

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13. (Amended) A crosslinked fluorine-containing rubber molded article obtained by crosslinking the fluorine-containing rubber composition for crosslinking of ~~any of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 2.

Claims 14-20 are added as new claims.

FOR EASY REFERENCE